

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is a Response to the Office Action mailed January 14, 2005, in which a three (3) month Shortened Statutory Period for Response has been set, due to expire April 14, 2005. Enclosed is our check to cover the fee for a one-month extension of time, to May 14, 2005. Forty-three (43) claims, including twelve (12) independent claims, were paid for in the application. Claims 1-6, 9-10, 14-15, 21, 23-31, 33-37 and 39-43 have been canceled. No new matter has been added to the application. No fee for additional claims is due by way of this Amendment. The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090. Claims 7-8, 11-13, 16-20, 22, 32 and 38 are pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 36-37 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawyer (U.S. Patent No. 6,569,549) in view of Reiser et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0076583). Claims 37 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawyer in view of Reiser et al., and further in view of Strasser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,935,028). Claims 36-37 and 43 are hereby canceled.

Conclusion

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 7-8, 11-13, 16-20, 22, 32 and 38. In light of the above amendments and remarks, all of the claims remaining in the application are allowed, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner notes any informalities in the claims, he is encouraged to contact Mr. Abramonte by telephone to expediently correct such informalities.

Respectfully submitted,
Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC


Frank Abramonte
Registration No. 38,066

Enclosure:
Postcard

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092
(206) 622-4900
Fax: (206) 682-6031
(FXA:lrw) 580452_1